

WASHINGTON VACCINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
***PNEUMOCOCCAL POLYSACCHARIDE VACCINE**
RECOMMENDATION STATEMENT
Final 1/24/02

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Vaccine Advisory Committee (VAC) has reviewed the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV-23) recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and considered their implications for the State of Washington.

The VAC recommends the DOH Immunization Program work with key constituents to increase public and provider education and awareness about pneumococcal disease and the availability of a safe and effective vaccine.

The VAC recommends a single dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine for the following groups of people:

1. Persons 65 years of age or older;
2. Persons 2-64 years of age with chronic cardiovascular disease, chronic pulmonary disease, or diabetes mellitus;
3. Persons 2-64 years of age with alcoholism, chronic liver disease, or cerebrospinal fluid leaks;
4. Persons 2-64 years of age with functional or anatomic asplenia;
5. Persons 2-64 years of age living in special environments or social settings in which the risk for invasive pneumococcal disease or its complications is increased (e.g., Alaskan Natives and certain American Indian populations) as well as residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.
6. Immunocompromised persons 2 years of age or older, including those with HIV infection, leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, generalized malignancy, chronic renal failure, or nephritic syndrome; those receiving immunosuppressive chemotherapy (including corticosteroids) and those who have received an organ or bone marrow transplant.

Routine revaccination is not indicated for immunocompetent persons receiving one dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine at 65 years of age or older. If one dose was received before age 65 and more than five years have elapsed since the first dose, revaccination is recommended.

Revaccination is recommended for immunocompromised persons 2-64 years of age who are at highest risk for serious pneumococcal infection and those who are likely to have a rapid decline in pneumococcal antibody levels. Immunocompromised persons 10 years of age and older should be revaccinated 5 years after receipt of the first dose of pneumococcal vaccine. Children ages 2-10 in this category should be revaccinated 3 years after the previous dose.

* This recommendation refers only to pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV 23) and not to pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV 7). PPV23 is recommended in addition to PCV7 for certain high-risk children ages 24-59 months. Specific PCV7 recommendations are included in a separate document.